

OCS

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SCHOOLS



Pre-K to Kindergarten Transition

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Why is there a focus on a child's transition to kindergarten?

The transition to Kindergarten is one of the most significant transitions that a young child experiences in his or her formative years. What happens may lay the foundation for a child's adjustment to and future success in school. The transition to Kindergarten is much more than a one-time event. It is a journey that takes time, preparation, and advanced planning.

Hawai'i Good Beginnings Interdepartmental Council 2004

Transition to Kindergarten

Things to Know:

- Online registration began April 1
- Attend school orientation/open house
- Staggered 1st day (3 Days)
 - August 24, 25, 26
- Drop off
 - Kiss and drive
 - Walking to class
- Dismissal (Be clear and consistent)
 - Bus riders
 - Car riders
 - Walkers
 - After-school care
- Attendance (including tardies and early check outs) – 10 minutes per day = almost 30 hours of missed instruction
- Relationships/Communication
- Concerns
- Supporting your child
- Assessments
 - KEA
 - mCLASS DIBELS 8
 - iReady Mathematics
- Curriculum/learning expectations
 - CKLA
 - iReady Classroom Mathematics

What is the NC Early Learning Inventory?

- North Carolina Early Learning Inventory (NCELI)
- In accordance with state law (North Carolina General Statute 115C-83.5) the KEA (NCELI) began full implementation in fall 2015 as part of the Read to Achieve legislation.
- Focuses on five domains of school readiness: Language Development and Communication, Approaches to Learning, Emotional and Social Development, Cognitive Development, and Health and Physical Development.

What is the NC Early Learning Inventory?

- Situations and tasks that afford children many opportunities to make, do, say, or write, are provided for teachers to elicit evidence, which is entered into the KEA online assessment platform.
- Evidence may include photos, videos, audio, or written notes from teacher observations.
- Teachers use the evidence to make determinations about each child's school readiness and use the data to inform instructional planning.

What are the reading expectations for kindergarten?

- NC Read to Achieve
 - State law that requires benchmark and formative assessments K-3
- Amplify mCLASS DIBELS 8
 - State required assessment system for reading K-3
 - Phonics/Science of Reading based (with first 25 days)
 - Sets the required benchmarks
 - Benchmarks at BOY, MOY, and EOY
 - Progress monitoring required between benchmarks

What is assessed in reading?

| DIBELS measures at each grade level | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Measure | Grade K | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 |
| Letter naming fluency | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Phonemic segmentation fluency | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Nonsense word fluency | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Word reading fluency | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Oral reading fluency | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Maze (basic comprehension) | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Required additional measures at each grade level below | | | | |
| Oral language | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Vocabulary | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

What math skills will children be working on in kindergarten?

Focus on Three Main Areas:

- Learning numbers and what numbers represent
- Addition and Subtraction
- Shapes



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What math skills are students working on in Pre-K?

- Counting numbers
- Quantifying numbers
- Connecting numbers with how many
- Understanding spatial relationships, proximity, position and shapes
- Comparing and measuring
- Pre-K students use water tables, sand tables, centers, manipulatives, scales, magnifying glasses, puzzles and shapes

What math skills will children be working on in kindergarten?

Activities/tasks will include:

- Counting how many objects are in a group and comparing the quantities of two groups of objects
- Comparing two numbers to identify which is greater or less than the other
- Understanding addition as putting together and subtraction as taking away from
- Adding and subtracting very small numbers quickly and accurately

What math skills will children be working on in kindergarten?

Activities/tasks will include:

- Breaking up numbers less than or equal to 10 in more than one way (for example, $9=6+3$, $9=5+4$)
- For any number from 1 to 9, finding the missing quantity that is needed to reach 10
- Representing addition and subtraction word problems using objects or by drawing pictures
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems involving numbers that add up to 10 or less or by subtracting from a number 10 or less

What math skills will children be working on in kindergarten?

- Acting out addition and subtraction word problems and drawing diagrams to represent them
- Adding with a sum of 10 or less
- Subtracting from a number 10 or less; and solving addition and subtraction word problems
- Adding and subtracting very small numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., $3 + 1$)
- Correctly naming shapes regardless of orientation or size (e.g., a square oriented as a “diamond” is still a square)

How can I help my child be successful in Kindergarten and beyond?

- Read to and with your child
- Ensure your child has plenty of age-appropriate reading materials
- Show you child that education is important (ask about their day, what they learned, what happened at school, etc.)
- Stay in communication with your child's teacher(s) and keep up to date with your child's progress
- Ask questions
- Make sure your child eats healthy and gets plenty of sleep
- Smart screen time

Resources

- NCDPI Early Learning Info for Families
 - <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/parents-corner/early-learning-info-families>
- Literacy at Home: Digital Children's Reading Initiative
 - <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/parents-corner/literacy-home-digital-childrens-reading-initiative>
- NCDPI Kindergarten Readiness Guide
 - <https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/academics/elementary-education/kinder/kindergarten-readiness-guide>
- Onslow County Schools Elementary ELA Info
 - <https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/academics/curriculum-instruction/english-language-arts/elementary-english-language-arts>
- Onslow County Schools Readiness for Kindergarten
 - <https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/academics/elementary-education/readiness-for-kindergarten>

2026–27 Kindergarten Registration

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



<https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/academics/elementary-education/kinder>

You can register your child if he/she turns
5 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2026

What you will need when enrolling your child:

- Official Birth Certificate
- Proof of Residence (a water or electric bill indicating service address)
- Photo ID of legal parent or guardian

The following required documents are preferred at the time of registration but must be submitted within the first 30 days of enrollment.

- Updated Immunization Record
- Kindergarten Health Assessment (must be on the official form and from within the previous 12 months prior to the start of school)



Contact Information

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